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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Artillery Training Camp and School - Summer 1953

1. A training camp and school for artillery units is located four or five kilometers north of Sofia on the left bank of the Sukhodol River, in an area which is partially wooded. It extends approximately 1,000 meters in a north-south direction and about 800 meters in an east-west direction. On the east and south sides it is enclosed by a fence, and on the north and west by a line of zigzag trenches which have positions for antiaircraft guns and machine guns.
2. Each of the artillery positions has three antiaircraft guns (type and make not known), which have "long" barrels, are approximately 45 mm., have 4-wheel gun mounts on rubber tires, and protective shields. Each machine gun position has one Maksim gun. Informant noted three or four 76 mm. Skoda guns parked in the vicinity of the barracks. All weapons mentioned above are used for training.
3. The camp has the following buildings (numbers refer to the sketch on page 2):¹
 - a. Command of the camp, personnel quarters, warehouses, kitchen, etc.: A group of 12 (or 16) wooden, German-type barracks, arranged in a square (three or four per side); in the center of the barracks area is a flagpole;
 - b. Five semi-underground positions of packed earth for antiaircraft artillery; and
 - c. Six machine gun positions; underground, covered with timber beams, earth, and foliage.

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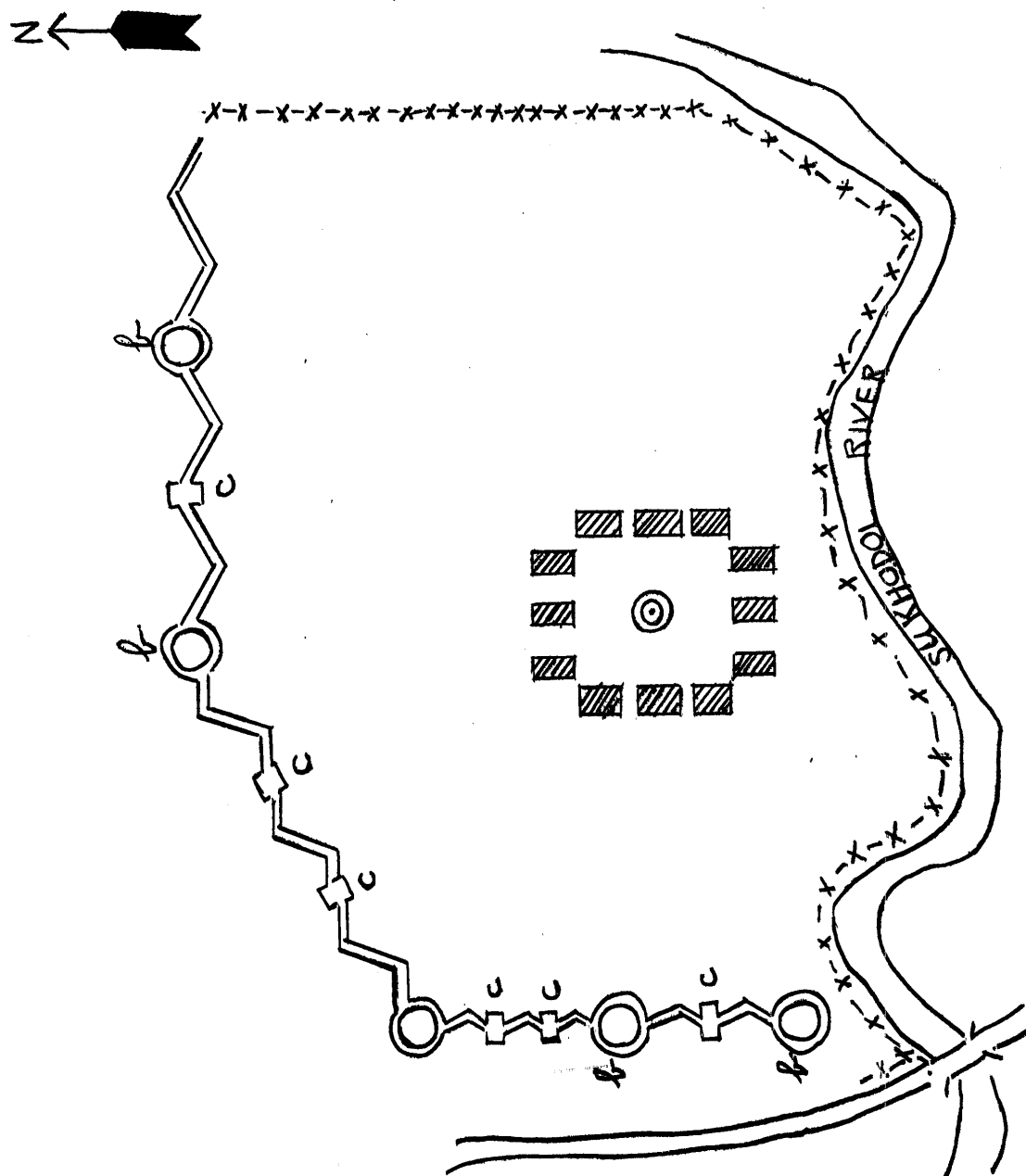
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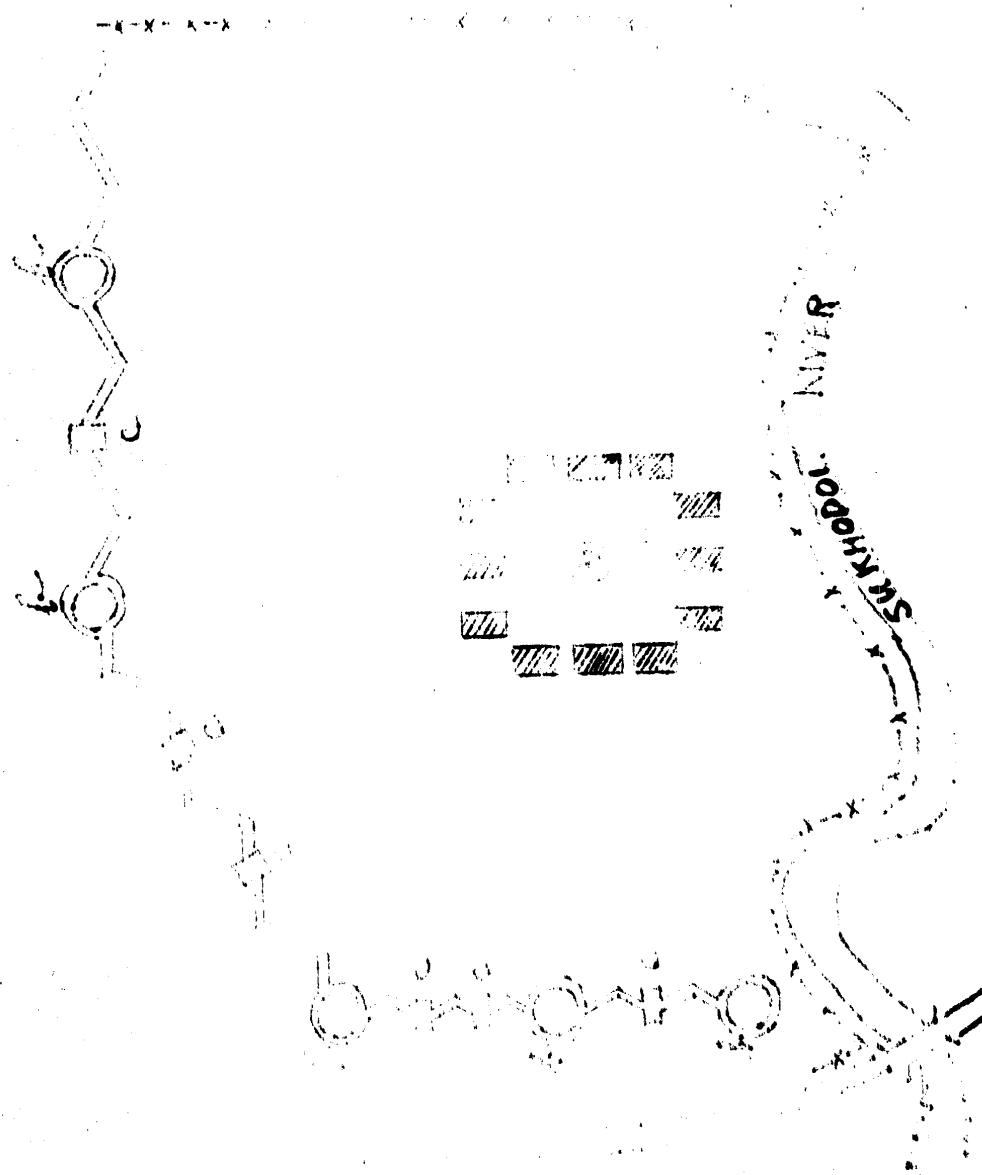
4. As of summer 1953, approximately 150 men were stationed at this camp. The unit consisted of young men, students of medium or superior schools, who were politically reliable and of good conduct. For these young men, the tour of duty was four years.

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4. As of summer 1953, approximately 150 men were stationed at this camp. The unit consisted of young men, students of medium or superior schools, who were politically reliable and of good conduct. For these young men, the tour of duty was four years,

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whereas the tour for regular Army units and Trudovaks was three years. Upon completion of the tour of duty, during which time they underwent an intense, severe, precise preparation, particularly thorough in the technical-professional field, those young men who were shown to possess conspicuous military and moral qualities, political reliability, and sense of discipline were able to obtain, upon request, admission into a continuous military career with the rank of junior lieutenant in the specialty. Those who did not intend to follow a military career were dismissed, with the rank of junior lieutenant to be conferred in case of recall for training or mobilization.

5. Uniforms were identical to those in use by the other Army units. The only mark to distinguish these "special units" of artillery from the regular Army units was a distinctive insignia of two crossed guns on the epaulette.

Training Center for Instructors of Recruits - April 1954

6. A training center for instructors of recruits is located in a former concentration camp (created by the Germans during their occupation of Bulgaria) in the northern outskirts of Sofia, approximately two kilometers west of the main railroad station. It consists of 15-16 wooden barracks, approximately 30 x 8 meters in size, not fenced in.
7. The unit has a strength of about 700 men, commanded by an unidentified captain.
8. Weapons of the unit are as follows:
 - a. Ordinary repeater rifles (make not known), 7.62 mm. caliber, loaded with five charges;
 - b. PPSH submachine guns;
 - c. Schneiser German submachine guns;
 - d. Degtyarov machine guns of Soviet production and Brno machine guns of Czech production;
 - e. Maksim heavy machine guns;
 - f. Soviet hand grenades with handles for throwing; and
 - g. Bulgarian hand grenades, "Odrinki" model, preestablished conchoid.
9. In addition, for training purposes, the unit is equipped with a 6-barrel anti-aircraft machine gun, concerning which informant gave the following details:
 - a. Model: "Shpagin-49."
 - b. Production: Soviet, probably from the Tula Factory.
 - c. Caliber: About 20 mm.
 - d. Carriage mount: Leaning shaft on the base, formed by three overlapping "poles," along the axis of the mount.
 - e. Horizontal firing sector: 360°.

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- a. Two wooden barracks, located at the eastern end of the south side of the field. Includes a workshop for small repairs to tanks during the training.
- b. Wall for light weapons firing practice. Granite blocks, three meters high, one meter thick, length not known.
- c. Fence. About 1.5 meters high, marks the west end of the training camp.
- d. Trench. Located approximately 200 meters west of the fence. About one meter wide and 1.5 meters deep; the west side is protected by an earth embankment.
- e. Artificial woods. Marks the south margin of the training camp. Approximately 15 meters deep.

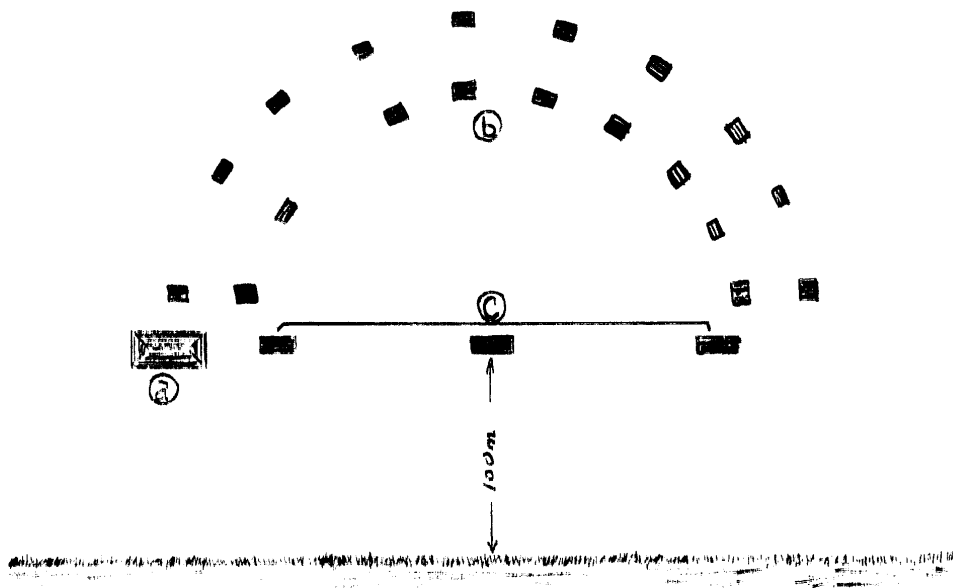
13. Informant at various times noted T-34 and other tanks of German production located at the camp. These were of the type used by the German tank units in Bulgaria.

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Premilitary Instruction

14. Premilitary instruction is voluntary. Participation in the premilitary instruction courses, is however, limited to members of the youth Party organization. Courses are given during the summer at "Camp-Schools" (Lager Shkola) and last 40 days. Their aim is the training of the youths in a military specialty, such as mechanics, telephones, telegraphy, radio, light arms sharpshooting, etc.
15. The selection of the course to be followed is free to the youths; however, they must promise to attend not only a particular course, but to participate in various other courses in successive years. During these courses, the youths continue to wear their civilian clothing.
16. Among the various "Camp-Schools" in Bulgaria, informant knows only one of those for "light arms sharpshooters," which is located approximately 10 kilometers south of Byala (N 42-53, E 27-54), about 100 meters from the Black Sea coast. The following is a sketch of the camp area:

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- a. Command pavilion.
- b. Two rows of tents, arranged in a semicircle. Each row has 10 tents about 4 x 4 meters in size. Each tent has a capacity of 10 men, in double bunks.
- c. Reinforced concrete shelters for light arms. Look like small houses, with false doors and windows, and outside walls painted red. About 4 x 4 meters in size, and 3 meters high. Each shelter has three embrasures--one on the front wall (toward the sea) and one on each of the side walls. The entrance into the shelters is on the west side.

17. During the period of these courses, the youths are given superficial military instruction--regulations, close order marching, etc. A little later, they are acquainted with light arms used by the infantry. Instruction is given as follows:

- a. 7:00 a.m. to noon: Instruction in close order drill, regulations, weapons familiarization; and
- b. 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.: Training in the use of weapons, carried out in groups of five or six at a time, in the shelters previously described. Firing practice is carried out daily on targets set on the sea shore or on buoys in the sea.

18. Weapons used in this training are as follows:

- a. Ordinary repeater rifles;
- b. Ordinary repeater rifles with telescope sights (Sniper type);
- c. PPSh submachine guns; and
- d. Brno-3 light machine guns.

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19. The camp is commanded by a lieutenant. Instructors consist of infantry cadet officers. At irregular intervals, the camp-school is inspected by an infantry major from Varna.

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